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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/651,075	08/28/2003	Daniele Lo Iacono	02CT17653403	7266
27975	7590	04/12/2007	EXAMINER	
ALLEN, DYER, DOPPELT, MILBRATH & GILCHRIST P.A. 1401 CITRUS CENTER 255 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE P.O. BOX 3791 ORLANDO, FL 32802-3791			MAI, TAN V	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2193

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/651,075	IACONO, DANIELE LO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tan V. Mai	2193	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/6/07.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 39-74 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 71-74 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 39-70 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. Claims 39-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Rejection grounds continue to be those set forth in the previous office action (Paper dated 10/17/06, paragraph 1).

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 2/6/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant, in his remarks, argues that:

(1) "[r]eferring to FIGS. 6A and 6B, the auxiliary string is represented by M, M, and the first string is represented by X. Independent Claim 39 recites that a logic combination is performed when generating the auxiliary string. Based upon the results of the logic combination (the logic combination could be an OR mask or an AND mask as respectively shown in FIGS. 6A and 6B), the output string (represented by Y) is generated as a logic combination of the auxiliary string and of the first string. The logic combination is the same in FIGS. 6A and 6B for generating the output string Y. Dependent Claims 43 and 44 are respectively directed to the logic combination in the auxiliary string, i.e., the OR mask and the AND mask.

One embodiment for the decrementing circuit is shown in FIG. 9B, for example. The difference is the inverter in the auxiliary string path. The logic combination for the decrementing in FIG. 9B is the same as the logic combination performed in FIGS. 6A and 6B.

A similar comparison can be made for the incrementing. One embodiment for the incrementing circuit is shown in FIG. 10C, for example. The difference is the two inverters in the auxiliary string path. The logic combination for the incrementing in FIG. 10C is the same as the logic combination performed in FIGS. 6A and 6B.

The Applicant submits that the independent claims broadly recite generating the auxiliary string, and generating the output string as a logic combination of the auxiliary string and of the first string. Based

upon how the auxiliary string is generated, then generation of the auxiliary string will result in either incrementing, decrementing or two's complementing of the N bit string. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the claims are definite" (emphasis added).

With respect to the arguments, the examiner carefully reviews Applicant's specification, drawings and claimed invention.

It is noted that applicant hasn't pointed out how/why the claim produces [either] "incrementing, decrementing or two's complementing" result based on the body of independent claims. If the preamble of the claim is considered, then the claim is incomplete. It is noted that independent claims 39 and 55 are corresponding to Figs. 6A-6B which show only **two's complement circuits**. Figs. 9B and 10C show decrementing circuit and incrementing circuit, respectively. Therefore, the rejection is still proper.

3. Claims 39-70 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tan V. Mai whose telephone number is (571) 272-3726. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Wed and Fri. from 9:30am to 2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An, can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is:

Official (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.


Tan V. Mai
Primary Examiner